

C. Remarks

The claims are 28-35, 38 and 39, with claims 28, 30, 32, 34 and 38 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 21-27, 36, 37 and 40-47 have been cancelled. Claim 29 has been amended to correct its dependency. No new matter has been added. Claims 28-35, 38 and 39 have been allowed.

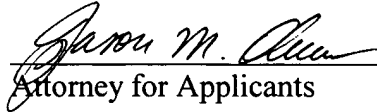
Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 46 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0121638 A1 (Grushin). Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 36, 37, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Grushin. Claims 1, 3, 10-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0034656 A1 (Thompson). Claims 1, 3, 10-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/019782 A1 (Igarashi).

Without acquiescence to the propriety of the rejections, and solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 36, 37, 44 and 45 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the above rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

Wherefore, since the only claimed remaining in this application are allowed claims 28-35, 38 and 29, it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 48,512

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 429722v1